

REMARKS

Claims 1-80 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by WO 00/51310 to Boucher et al, (hereinafter Boucher). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

This application claims methods and systems for increasing the quantity of differentiable programming content in a digital programming stream. As described in the specification and as claimed, this is accomplished by substituting a plurality of digital programming components for a standard digital programming segment in a digital programming transmission stream. Since multiple programming segments can be inserted into the place of a single standard digital programming segment, the quantity of differentiable programming content in the digital stream can be increased.

To further clarify the claimed invention, the pending independent claims in this application have been amended to specify that “the at least one subset of the digital programming components replaces the standard digital programming segment in the digital programming transmission stream.” Boucher does not disclose replacing a standard digital programming segment in a digital transmission stream with at least one subset of the digital programming components. By allowing for the replacement of a standard digital programming segment in a digital transmission stream with at least one subset of the digital programming components, the components can easily be inserted into a standard digital transmission stream typically containing standard digital programming segments.

Since Boucher does not disclose replacing a standard digital programming segment in a digital transmission stream with at least one subset of the digital programming components as claimed, the rejection of claims 1-75 and 76-80, should be withdrawn.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is

determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing Attorney Docket No. 559442003900.

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Respectfully submitted,

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